

Title:	Jean Lussier collection, 1928, 1930, n.d.		
Creator:	Jean Lussier		
Dates of Material:	1928, 1930, n.d.	Reference Number:	RG 629
Scope and Content:	<p>Three sepia postcards depicting the end of a successful ride over the Horseshoe Falls by Jean Lussier. One of these postcards is autographed.</p> <p>One black and white postcard featuring Jean Lussier. This postcard is autographed.</p> <p>One newsprint 30 cm x 22 cm. broadside of Jean Lussier.</p>		
Summary of Contents:	<p>Two copies of a sepia postcard showing Jean Lussier exiting from the 6 foot rubber ball which was lined with oxygen tubes. He rode the ball over the Horseshoe Falls on July 4, 1928. He is shown here being assisted out of the ball and surrounded by onlookers. The printed caption on the card is "coming out of ball, smiling Jean." The back of one of these cards is signed in pencil by Jean Lussier and dated August 30, 1930.</p> <p>One sepia postcard which shows Jean Lussier stepping on the ball directly after his successful ride. The caption is "Over Niagara Falls, July 4, 1928 Jean A. Lussier.", 1928</p> <p>One black and white postcard featuring a photo of the Falls with an inset of Jean Lussier's head. The caption on this one is "Jean Lussier and his Rubber Ball over Horse Shoe Falls, July 4, 1928."</p> <p>One 30 cm. x 22 cm. newsprint broadside announcing that you could "See the wonder of the world, Jean Lussier in person." The broadside features a full length photograph of Jean Lussier and a diagram of the rubber ball which he rode over the Falls. "The hero of Niagara" was at the Falls View Observation Tower. The broadside was printed by Welland Printing Company and is undated, n.d.</p>		

Physical Description/Condition:	<p>One of the duplicate sepia postcards (the one which isn't autographed) has a slight indentation in the lower right hand corner of the picture.</p> <p>The sepia postcard in which Lussier is stepping on the ball looks like it has a slight rip in the middle of the photo. The rip is not actually on this postcard. This card seems to have been reproduced from a ripped one.</p> <p>The broadside has a very slight jagged piece along the bottom. It has been folded but is in excellent condition.</p>
Biographical / Administrative Notes:	<p>Jean Albert Lussier was born in Concord, New Hampshire in 1891. His parents were French Canadian and he lived in Quebec for a while, but returned to the United States in order to perfect his English.</p> <p>Lussier was employed as a machinist in Springfield, Massachusetts. He became fascinated by Charles Stephens' ill-fated trip over the falls in a barrel. He decided to devise an apparatus to go over the Falls and opted for a rubber ball rather than a barrel. The ball was 6 feet in diameter and was reinforced with steel bands, inside and out. The lining was made up of 36 inner tubes. He put a 150 pound rubber ballast at the bottom of the ball to keep it from spinning.</p> <p>After his successful journey over the Falls he moved to Niagara Falls, New York where he sold off pieces of the rubber ball to tourists for 50 cents each. He also signed autographs and postcards and told his tale of going over the Falls. After all the pieces of the ball were sold, he found discarded inner tubes and sold pieces of the tubes.</p> <p>He described his journey over the Falls as "smooth" and he wanted to make another trip over the Falls. This never happened, and he died in Niagara Falls, New York of natural causes in 1971.</p>
Location:	<p>Brock University Archives</p>

Source Information:	Three of the postcards and the Broadside were purchased from Potter & Potter Auctions, 2018		
Described by:	Anne Adams	Date:	Feb. 13, 2018